

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1045

AMEMBASSY LISBON

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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SUBJ: NORWEGIAN LABOR PLANS FOR TRADE UNION TRAINING AND OTHER
ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL

REFS: (A) LISBON 400, (B) OSLO 5718

SUMMARY: NORWEGIAN LABOR HAS EXTENSIVE PLANS TO HELP
PORTUGAL'S SOCIALISTS WITH TRADE UNION LEADERSHIP
TRAINING, AS WELL AS WITH PUBLISHING HOUSE AND ES-
TABLISHMENT OF EDUCATIONAL/INFORMATIONAL/CULTURAL
CENTER(REFTELS). PRACTICAL DETAILS REMAIN TO BE
RESOLVED. SUBSTANTIAL NORWEGIAN LABOR DELEGATION WILL
VISIT LISBON FEB 15-21 TO CONFER ON COOPERATION AND
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TRAINING. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS USG LIMIT ITS ROLE TO

QUIETLY ENCOURAGING CONTINUED NORWEGIAN ASSISTANCE.
END SUMMARY.

1. NORWEGIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO) INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY KAARE SANDEGREN TOLD DCM AND LABATT JAN 23 ABOUT PLANS OF LO AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF NORWAY'S SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT (LABOR PARTY, WORKERS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, ETC.) TO HELP PORTUGAL. AS HISTORICAL BACKGROUND, HE DESCRIBED HOW COMMUNIST INTRANSIGENCE AND DOMINATION OF INTERSINDICAL HAD FRUSTRATED LO'S ORIGINAL PLANS TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND OTHER HELP TO A UNIFIED PORTUGUESE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. AS A RESULT, LO'S RELATIONS WITH INTER-SINDICAL WERE "OUT ON ICE" LAST SPRING, WHERE THEY STILL REMAIN. HOWEVER SANDEGREN ADDED, LO HOPES PORTUGAL'S SOCIALISTS WILL STILL WORK INSIDE INTER SINDICAL TO CAPTURE IT WHILE RETAINING PORTUGUESE TRADE UNION UNITY.

2. SANDEGREN POINTED OUT THAT COMMUNIST DOMINATION OF INTERSINDICAL PREVENTS LO FROM USING THE NORMAL AND CORRECT CHANNELS BETWEEN NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTERS. THIS FORCES LO TO SEEK OTHER VEHICLES FOR TRAINING PROGRAMS. SANDEGREN SAID THERE WILL BE DIRECT, INDIVIDUAL UNION-TO-UNION ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN CORRESPONDING UNIONS IN NORWAY AND PORTUGAL. ADDITIONAL VEHICLES MUST ALSO BE FOUND TO PROVIDE GENERAL TRAINING AND BECAUSE COMMUNISTS DOMINATE SOME KEY UNIONS SUCH AS PETROLEUM AND CHEMICAL WORKERS. THE NORWEGIANS HAVE NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO USE THE EXISTING (ICFTU-RELATED) LABOR INSTITUTE, THE PROJECTED SOCIALIST INFORMATION (OR CULTURAL) CENTER OR SOME OTHER VEHICLE. MOST TRAINING WILL PROBABLY BE IN PORTUGAL FOR COST AND OTHER REASONS. OTHER PRACTICAL DETAILS ARE ALSO UNRESOLVED AND ANSWERS FROM PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS ON MANY OF THEM ARE SLOW IN COMING--UNDERSTANDABLY SO IN VIEW OF THEIR OTHER PROBLEMS, SANDEGREN SAID. THE SENSITIVE, FREQUENTLY CHANGING PORTUGUESE POLITICAL AND TRADE UNION SITUATION DEMANDS CAUTION AND DISCRETION.

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3. A LEADING PORTUGUESE HOUSE (TIDEN NORSK FORLAG) ABOUT ASSISTANCE TO THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS' PUBLISHING HOUSE, SANDEGREN SAID. PLANS ARE ALSO ADVANCING FOR NORWEGIAN ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISHING A SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL OR INFORMATIONAL CENTER (REPORTED IN PGH. 2 OF REF B, PRESUMABLY IDENTICAL WITH THE CULTURAL CENTER REFERRED TO IN REF A, PGH 10). SANDEGREN COMMENTED THAT THE SOCIALISTS ALREADY HAVE

A BUILDING, OR HAVE ONE IN MIND, FOR THE CENTER, BUT SOME FINANCIAL DETAILS REMAIN TO BE CLARIFIED.

4. A SUBSTANTIAL NORWEGIAN LABOR MOVEMENT DELEGATION WILL VISIT LISBON FEBRUARY 15-21, TO CONFER WITH PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS ABOUT COOPERATION ON INFORMATION/CULTURAL CENTER, TRADE UNION TRAINING, ETC. DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE LABOR PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL IVAR LEVERAAS, WORKERS'S EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (AOF) CHIEF SECRETARY ALF FROTJOLD OR HIS DEPUTY LARS BUER AND ANOTHER AOF OFFICIAL, OFFICIALS OF SELECTED INDIVIDUAL TRADE UNIONS, A REPORTER FROM OSLO LABOR DAILY NEWSPAPER "ARBEIDERBLADET", AND INTERPRETER AND POSSIBLY SANDEGREN.

5. DCM ASKED HOW LO FUNDS SUCH PROGRAMS. SANDEGREN EXPLAINED THAT LABOR MOVEMENT (LABOR PARTY, LO, AOF, ETC), HAS A SOLIDARITY FUND FOR SUCH PURPOSES. IN ADDITION, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR PORTUGAL AND LO CAN ALSO CALL ON FOREIGN AID (NORAD) AND OTHER CATEGORIES OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS TO HELP PORTUGAL. DURING RECENT DISCUSSION AMBASSADOR HAD WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RE SPAIN AND PORTUGAL, FONMIN NOTED TREMENDOUS LO PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT "TO GET NORWAY REALLY MOVING IN AID FIELD TO PORTUGAL." (COMMENT: MOST OF AOF'S EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN NORWAY ARE GOVERNMENT FUNDED. AOF IS IN EFFECT A CONTRACTOR FOR THE GOVERNMENT IN PROVIDING ADULT EDUCATION AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS. AOF'S EXPERIENCE IN DRAWING ON GOVERNMENT FUNDS FOR ITS PROJECTS MAY ALSO BE USEFUL IN ITS HELP TO PORTUGAL.

6. SANDEGREN NOTED THAT PORTUGAL HAS BEEN RECLASSIFIED AS A LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRY BY THE OECD DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE SO SHE IS NOW INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AS ELIGIBLE FOR FOREIGN AID. NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT FOREIGN AID
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TO PORTUGAL IS EMBARRASSINGLY LOW, SANDEGREN COMMENTED. HE SAID THIS IS A MISTAKE, CONSIDERING THE GREAT POLITICAL IMPORTANCE, ESPECIALLY TO NORWAY, OF THE OUTCOME IN PORTUGAL. HE CALLED ATTENTION TO A RECENT LABOR YOUTH (AUF) APPEAL FOR AN IMMEDIATE GENERAL NKR 150 MILLION (ABOUT 27 MILLION) LOW-INTEREST LOAN TO PORTUGAL. LO INSPIRED THIS AUF PROPOSAL AND WILL JOIN AUF IN PUSHING IT, SANDEGREN SAID.

7. COMMENT: NORWEGIAN LABOR RECOGNIZES AND IS MOVING TO MEET THE NEED FOR TRAINING PROGRAMS TO DEVELOP PORTUGUESE TRADE UNION LEADERS. SUCH TRAINING WILL PROBABLY BE CONDUCTED MOSTLY IN PORTUGAL, BUT PARTLY IN NORWAY. NORWEGIAN LABOR CLEARLY DOES NOT NEED AND

WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY US FINANCING OR PARTICIPATION.
EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT WE LIMIT US ROLE HERE TO
QUIETLY ENCOURAGING THE NORWEGIAN LABOR TO CONTINUE
ITS AID TO PORTUGAL'S SOCIALIST WITH TRADE UNION LEADER
TRAINING.
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